



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,030	03/13/2001	Yasuyuki Shintani	OGOH:069	8138

7590 11/06/2003

Parkhurst & Wendel
Suite 210
1421 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2805

EXAMINER

HOLLOWAY III, EDWIN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2635

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/787,030	SHINTANI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Edwin C. Holloway, III	2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 13-40 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2635

EXAMINER'S RESPONSE

1. In response to the application filed 3-13-01 and the preliminary amendments filed 3-13-03 and 12-27-02, the amendments have been entered and the application has been examined. The examiner has considered the presentation of claims in view of the disclosure and the present state of the prior art. And it is the examiner's opinion that the claims are unpatentable for the reasons set forth in this Office action:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 & 103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

Art Unit: 2635

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 13-14, 22-23, 25-27, 31-40 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Welmer (US 5499018).

Welmer discloses an appliance communication system with condition information, setting information and/or data such as character set, format, status, transmit status once, transit status each change and address. Any of these may be alternatively called condition information, setting information or data. An initiating device requests character set and format from another device and further request a status response that may be in a one time mode or with each change. The initiating device sends its address to be stored monitored device to form a link. See col. 6-7.

6. Claims 14-21, 24, 28-29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Welmer (US 5499018) as applied above in view of Burgmann (US 4801924). Welmer does not specify periodic information. Regarding claims 14-21, 24 and 28-29, Burgmann discloses a programmable status transmitter with memory programmed to transmit status at change and/or at a programmed

Art Unit: 2635

interval in col. 4. Appliance operation is included as a status in claim 1 of Burgmann. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included in Welmer the time period of claims 14-21 and 28-29 because this is disclosed in analogous art by Burgmann to allow customized, programmable monitoring of status. Regarding claim 32, if transmitting a setting demand if the receiving appliance response does not include information about transmit conditions or conditions are not set, the such would have been obvious because it at least suggested by col. 8 lines 11-12 of Welmer including setting if there is room to store information and it common in the programming art to verify if information is already programmed before overwriting.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miyagawa (US 4989081), Ishikuro (US 5237305), Knibbe (US 5565885) and Sato (US 5802017) disclose home appliance networks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology center 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Facsimile submissions may be sent via fax number (703) 872-9314 to customer service for entry by technical support staff. Questions regarding fax submissions should be directed to customer service voice line (703) 306-0377.

Art Unit: 2635

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin C. Holloway, III whose telephone number is (703) 305-4818. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30:-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (703) 305-4704.

EH
11/3/03



EDWIN C. HOLLOWAY, III
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2635

L Number	Hits	Search Text	DB	Time stamp
1	4	(("5621662") or ("5838226")).PN.	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 08:49
2	3	((("5621662") or ("5838226")).PN.) and status	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 08:57
3	9632	transmit\$4 near2 status	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 08:57
4	34152	(assign\$3 program\$6 adjust\$3) near2 (interval\$1 period\$1)	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 09:08
5	23	(transmit\$4 near2 status) same ((assign\$3 program\$6 adjust\$3) near2 (interval\$1 period\$1))	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 08:58
6	44	(transmit\$4 near2 status) same (assign\$3 program\$6 adjust\$3) near5 (interval\$1 period\$1)	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 09:09
7	21	((transmit\$4 near2 status) same (assign\$3 program\$6 adjust\$3) near5 (interval\$1 period\$1)) not ((transmit\$4 near2 status) same ((assign\$3 program\$6 adjust\$3) near2 (interval\$1 period\$1)))	USPAT; US-PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB	2003/11/03 09:09
8	6	("4354252" "4442426" "4465904" "4581606" "4672365" "4737770").PN.	USPAT	2003/11/03 09:38
9	9	4801924.URPN.	USPAT	2003/11/03 09:44